

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Method of preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers in a water-based system in the presence of cyclodextrin, wherein said free radical polymerization is performed with a semi-continuous addition of monomer, wherein an initiator ~~is~~ and cyclodextrin are added to said water-based system prior to addition of said monomer, and in that a total solid contents is present of less than 30% by weight in said water-based system.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers in a water-based system proceeds in the presence of β -cyclodextrin.

3. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein said free-radical polymerization is initiated by a persulfate initiator.

4. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein said free-radical polymerization is performed via seeded emulsion or dispersion polymerization.

5.(Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein said polymerization is performed in the absence of addition of any ionic surfactant.

6.(Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic monomer is a compound selected from the group consisting of styrenics, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, acrylates, methacrylates, methacryl amides, acrylamides, vinylamide, maleimides, vinyl ethers, vinyl esters, monoalkymaleates, dialkyl maleates, fluorinated acrylates, fluorinated methacrylates, dienes and derivatives thereof.

7.(previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic monomer is a compound selected from the group consisting of styrene, methylmethacrylate, N-phenyl maleimide, divinylbenzene, ethyleneglyol diacrylate, 2,2,2-trifluoroethylacrylate, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl methacrylate, vinylcaprolactam, acrylonitrile, vinyl acetate, N-benzyl methacrylamide, N-benzyl maleimide and vinyl versatate.

8.(Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein said monodisperse polymer particles have an average particle size between 0.02 μm and 20 μm .

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A process for preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers comprising the steps of:

forming an aqueous solution of cyclodextrin and initiator; and adding said hydrophobic monomer to said aqueous solution semi-continuously; wherein said aqueous solution comprises a total solid contents of less than 30% by weight.

14. (previously presented) The process for preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers of claim 13, wherein said cyclodextrin is β -cyclodextrin.

15. (previously presented) The process for preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or

copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers of claim 13, wherein said initiator is a persulfate initiator.

16. (previously presented) The process for preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers of claim 13, wherein said free-radical polymerization is performed via seeded emulsion or dispersion polymerization.

17. (previously presented) The process for preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers of claim 13, wherein said polymerization is performed in the absence of addition of any ionic surfactant.

18. (previously presented) The process for preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers of claim 13, wherein said hydrophobic monomer is a compound selected from the group consisting of styrenics, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, acrylates, methacrylates, methacryl amides, acrylamides, vinylamide, maleimides, vinyl ethers, vinyl esters,

monoalkymaleates, dialkyl maleates, fluorinated acrylates, fluorinated methacrylates, dienes and derivatives thereof.

19. (previously presented) The process for preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers of claim 13, wherein said hydrophobic monomer is a compound selected from the group consisting of styrene, methylmethacrylate, N-phenyl maleimide, divinylbenzene, ethyleneglyol diacrylate, 2,2,2-trifluoroethylacrylate, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl methacrylate, vinylcaprolactam, acrylonitrile, vinyl acetate, N-benzyl methacrylamide, N-benzyl maleimide and vinyl versatate.

20. (previously presented) The process for preparing monodisperse polymer particles by free radical polymerization or copolymerization of hydrophobic monomers of claim 13, wherein said monodisperse polymer particles have an average particle size between 0.02 μm and 20 μm .